

GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

MONTHLY ROUND-UP

Volume 2, Number 3
May 2001

Contents

Board News
- Lichtinger Letter
- Recruitment
- Member News
- Conference Calls
- Next meeting
EPA News
Border Region News

Board News

Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings for 2001

- **July 25-26** - San Diego, California
- **October 10-11** - Laredo, Texas

GNEB Letter to Mexico Environment Secretary Victor Lichtinger

The Board has sent a letter to Secretary Lichtinger expressing its support for continuing dialogue with a Mexican counterpart advisory group, and extending an invitation to the San Diego meeting. Letter follows:

May 21, 2001

Honorable Victor Lichtinger, Secretario del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales,
Lateral del Anillo Periferico Sur, 4209 Sexto Piso, Fraccionalmente Jardines en La
Montaña, México, DF 14210

Estimado Secretario Lichtinger:

It is with pleasure that I write to you on behalf of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB), a federal advisory committee created to counsel the U.S. President and Congress on sustainable environmental and infrastructure needs along the US/México border.

Since 1997, the GNEB has been actively engaged in dialogue and coordination efforts with our Mexican counterpart, Consejo Nacional Asesoría para el Desarrollo Sustentable de la Región I. This has been a productive relationship thanks to members on both councils. In particular, Señor Oscar Romo, has served as the primary Consejo liaison with GNEB over the years and a chief proponent of collaborative efforts.

GNEB understands that you may be reconstituting the Consejo with new membership and policy direction under your leadership. At our last meeting in March 2001, the GNEB members discussed our enthusiasm for continuing collaborative efforts with such a newly organized Consejo under President Fox' administration. GNEB finds it valuable to continue environmentally sustainable cooperative efforts with our counterparts in México.

The next meeting of GNEB is in San Diego the last week in July. We would welcome a visit from your appointed liaison and would provide time at the meeting to discuss future activities.

I look forward to a productive discourse with your office and newly appointed Consejo. I thank you for your continuing support for collaborative efforts to achieve sustainable development along our borderlands.

Sincerely,

Judith M. Espinosa, Chair

cc: GNEB Members, Oscar Romo, Elaine Koerner

Recruitment - EPA is inviting nominations of qualified candidates to fill 3 vacancies on the Board. Given the Board's existing composition and EPA's continued commitment to diversity and balance, there is special interest in the following: maquiladora businesses, local governments, tribes, grassroots citizens' coalitions, ranching and grazing interests, and energy sector expertise.

Member News - Board Member Jennifer Kraus has published an article on private sector involvement along the border in the May issue of "Twin Plant News." Congratulations, Jennifer, and thanks for your reference to the Board's work.

June Conference Calls

(*call-in numbers will be provided by separate e-mail)

- **Air Quality Group** - Monday, June 25, 4 p.m. Eastern, 3 Central, 2 Mountain, 1 Pacific Time.

- **Haz Mat Group** - no call scheduled

- **Wastewater Group** - Tuesday, June 5, 12 noon Eastern, 11 Central, 10 Mountain, 9 Pacific Time.

- **Water Resources Group** - no call scheduled

- **San Diego Mtg. Planning Committee Call** - Monday, June 18, 1 p.m. Eastern, noon Central, 11 Mountain, 10 Pacific Time (tentative).

Next Good Neighbor Meeting: San Diego

The Board's next meeting will take place on July 25th and until noon on July 26th at the Horton Grand Hotel in San Diego. On the first morning, invited speakers will discuss water issues, followed by a public comment session before lunch. After lunch, there will be several additional speakers followed by a report-out by Board members. For the remainder of the meeting, the Board will conduct ongoing business including discussion of its recommendations for its upcoming Fifth Report to the President and Congress.

EPA News

from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board
May 2001 Round-Up

EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman has announced the consolidation of the Agency's Office of Regional Operations into the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations (OCIR). The consolidated organization will remain in the Office of the Administrator. Ed Kresnik, Associate Administrator for OCIR, will be the senior Agency manager responsible for congressional, regional, state, and local relations.

On May 24, the U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of Linda J. Fisher as EPA's Deputy Administrator. Fisher will be the top managerial and policy assistant to Whitman. Her previous experience at EPA from 1983-1993 included positions as Chief of Staff; Assistant Administrator for Policy, Planning and Evaluation; and Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. From 1995 to 2000, she was Vice President and Corporate Officer at the Monsanto Co., St. Louis, MO.

Border Region News

from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board
May 2001 Round-Up

****Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.****

Alternative Fuels - Waste Management of El Cajon (east of San Diego), CA, was recognized by the Department of Energy at its recent 7th National Clean Cities Conference. The company has replaced 120 of its aging diesel trucks with 120 state-of-the-art liquified natural gas powered trucks through a mobile source emission credit-trading program. See www.gnet.org/Coldfusion/News

Drinking Water Technology - Researchers at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico are said to have developed a new technology to remove arsenic from drinking water. The technology will be tested at a planned city water-purification demonstration plant in Albuquerque and in several smaller water systems in rural New Mexico communities. Contact: jdgerma@sandia.gov

Emissions Reduction - Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) has announced it will introduce a greenhouse gas reduction program as a member of a corporate consortium organized by the non-profit organization, Environmental Defense. See

www.environmentaldefense.org

Energy Plan - The National Energy Plan contains a number of EPA directives related to multi-pollutant legislation, combined heat and power, energy efficiency, Energy Star, and a renewable energy partnership program. See

www.whitehouse.gov/energy

Reports -

Enforcement - Texas is one of the ten states with the greatest number of major facilities in Significant Non-Compliance, says U.S. Public Interest Research Group in its recent report, "Polluters' Playground: How the Government Permits Pollution." See www.uspirg.org

Trends - Alternative energy offers considerable promise in meeting both short and longer-term solutions to shortages, according to "Vital Signs 2001: The Trends That are Shaping Our Future," published by Worldwatch Institute. See www.worldwatch.org

Water - Stopping wasteful water projects in California is one of the recommendations in the Green Watchdog report recently released by Friends of the Earth and a coalition of 20 taxpayer, environmental, and consumer groups. See www.greenscissors.org

Video Nomination - "Border Visions," which looks at Border XXI's role in environmental protection and economic development along the border (and was aired at GNEB's meeting in Las Cruces last spring), has been nominated in the best documentary category for the 16th Annual Imagen Awards. The awards ceremony is June 14th.

Water Declaration - Twenty-one NGO groups issued a declaration setting out principles to guide water deficit negotiations related to management of the Rio Conchos in Chihuahua, Mexico, and the lower Rio Bravo/Rio Grande along the Texas/Mexico border. See www.texascenter.org

Watershed Council - The Paso del Norte Watershed Council is accepting applications from members of the public interested in serving on the Council and its Executive Committee. Contact: jimstefanov@ibwc.state.gov

Web site - Southwest Center for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP)'s tribal environmental program has a new web page. See www.scerp.org/STEP/

Border Issues Events Calendar

from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board
May 2001 Round-Up

*Notes: Event listings below have been drawn from other lists and may have changed. Please check a primary source for more details. **Events specific to border region are in bold.** Web sites may have to be re-entered.*

June 7-8 19th Binational Border Governors' Conference.

June 13 EPA El Paso Border Office monthly forum, El Paso, TX.

June 17-21 AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition, Washington, D.C. See www.awwa.org/ace2001/index.htm

June 19-22 2001 EPA Community Involvement Conference, San Antonio, TX. See www.epancic.org

June 20 CEC Working Group on Sound Management of Chemicals meeting, Tucson, AZ. Contact: mpepin@ccemtl.org

June 19-20 BECC meeting, Washington, D.C.

June 22-23 First International Research Forum of the Network of Border Economics/Red de la Economia Fronteriza, "The U.S.-Mexico Border Economy of the 21st Century," Tijuana, BC. Contact: Lucinda Vargas, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, El Paso Branch, (915) 521-8235.

June 27-July 1 National Watershed Forum, Arlington, VA. See www.merid.org/watershed/index.html

June 27-29 CEC Annual Council Session, Guadalajara, Mexico.

June 30- July 3 National Environmental Health Association Annual Educational Conference, Atlanta, GA

July 2- 4 7th Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment, San Francisco, CA

July 25-26 Good Neighbor Environmental Board meeting, San Diego, CA. See www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm

July 30-Aug 2 Nature Conservancy conference, "Managing River Flows for Biodiversity," Fort Collins, CO. See www.freshwaters.org/conference

Aug 8 EPA El Paso Border Office monthly forum, El Paso, TX.

Aug 11-14 WGA Annual Meeting, Coeur d'Alene

Aug 27-28 9th International Joint Meeting on New Technologies in Water and Wastewater Treatment, Monterrey, N.L., Mexico. Contact: smaac@infosel.com

Aug 27-30 4th Inter-Regional Conference on Environment-Water: Competitive Uses and Conservation Strategies for Water and Natural Resources, Fortaleza, Brazil. See www.funarbe.org.br/ircew

Aug 27-31 2001 ASCE Wetlands Engineering & River Restoration Conference, Reno, NV. See www.asce.org/conferences/wetlands2001

Sept 8-11 Children's Environmental Health II: Global Forum for Action Conference, Washington, D.C.

Sept 13 EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.

Sept 17-21 Advanced Water Pollution Control Seminar, Univ. of TX, Austin. See www.lifelong.engr.utexas.edu

Sept 20-21 CEC SMOC and JPAC meetings, Tucson, AZ

- Sept 26-28** Ten (U.S.-Mexico Border) States Meeting - Monterrey, CA
- Oct 10-11** Good Neighbor Environmental Board meeting, Laredo, Texas. See www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm
- Oct 11** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.
- Oct 16 - 19** SCERP 2001 Annual Technical Conference: Sustainable Development in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region, Mexicali, B.C. See www.scerp.org
- Oct 20** Dia del Rio (River Day), organized by the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Coalition.
- Oct 25-26** Border Energy Forum, Tucson, AZ. See www.glo.state.tx.us/border
- Oct 29-31** Stream, Riparian, and Floodplain Restoration Workshop, Albuquerque, NM.
- Oct 29-31** 2001 New Mexico Environmental Health Conference: Building Partnerships for Healthy Communities, Albuquerque, NM. See www.nmehc.org
- Nov 8** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.
- Nov 12-15** AWRA's Annual Water Resources Conference, Albuquerque, NM. Contact: mike@awra.org
- Dec 11-13** Building Native Nations II Conference: Environment, Natural Resources, and Governance, Tucson, AZ. See www.udallcenter.arizona.edu
- Dec 17-21** International Conference on Pesticide Use & Health , NIH, Bethesda, MD. Contact: soeh@degnon.org.

2002

- Feb 23-27** Watershed 2002, Fort Lauderdale, FL. See www.wef.org

###

Editor: Elaine Koerner, Designated Federal Officer, Good Neighbor Environmental Board, (202) 564-1484